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ABSTRACT

The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library is the focal point of the University of Guam. The brand new library building was completed in March, 1992, and formally dedicated on October 7, 1993. The additional wing and renovation area cost a total of $7,302,880. When the renovation was underway, most collections, services, offices, and personnel were transferred into the new addition. The new addition is designed primarily for stacks and public reading areas, and also houses the Curriculum Resources Center, microform collections, small conference rooms, the computer room, and library faculty offices. The renovated area is allocated to the administrative offices, circulation, the Instructional Media Department, multimedia classrooms, the language listening lab, the online access catalog, government documents, the reserve collection, serials, technical processing offices, the public typing/word processing room, and a 24-hour study room. The library building, which won a design award, was harmoniously designed with the two adjacent buildings; its structure has sustained a typhoon and an earthquake. (AEF)

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ED 384 357

A MAGNIFICENT LIBRARY IN THE PACIFIC

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Overlooking the beautiful Pago Bay and the Pacific Ocean, the magnificent Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library is located in the center and becomes the focal point at the University of Guam, the only American institution of higher education offering graduate programs in the Western Pacific. The brand new library building of 54,201 square feet was occupied in February, and formally dedicated on October 7, 1993. The facility covers an additonal wing of 26,201 sf and a renovated area of 28,000 sf. The addition and renovation cost a total of $7,302,880, which was appropriated from the government of Guam.

The building broke ground on August 24, 1990 and the construction of the two-story new wing was completed in March, 1992. The work of renovating the old building followed after the completion of the new wing. When the renovation was under way, most collections, services, offices, and personnel were transferred into the new addition while the Instructional Media Department and the Government Documents Division of the Library were moved temporarily to the nearby facilities at the University. All functions and operations of the Library were relocated into the planned spaces when the total construction was completed.

The new addition was constructed with higher space and has

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reading areas of sloped ceilings around the central book shelves. It is designed primarily for stacks and public reading areas. The new space also houses the Curriculum Resources Center, microform collections, small conference rooms, the computer room, and library faculty offices. The renovated area, generally with lower ceilings, is alllocated to the administrative offices, circulation, the Instructional Media Department, multimedia classrooms, the language listening lab, the online access catalog, government documents, the reserve collection, serials, technical processing offices, the public typing/wordprocessing room, and a 24-hour study room.

The library building was designed together with the adjacent buildings for the Computer Center and the Micronesian Area Research Center at the University. Although it can be considered as a separate unit, the harmonious design of the three buildings made the Library becoming part of a unique academic complex. Visual connecting the Library with the complex and other nearby buildings on campus is achieved by articulating the entrances and covered walkways. Small open pavilions were constructed at entrances and corners. These pavilions provide meeting places for the students at traffic nodes and accentuate the village feeling in scale and function.

Between the renovated building and the new addition are located the elevator and stair atrium, providing maximum visual communication among the areas of different levels at this transition point. The traditional roof forms prevalent on Guam since

the Spanish era are accented and break down the scale of the building. The roof shape provides overhangs protecting all walls from the direct tropical sun and rain. The roof of the central stack area is a flat promenade, allowing the expansion of the Library for one or two more floors.

The entire building is properly wired that allows users in and out of it to access OCEAN (the Online Catalog for Easy Access Network), the Dynix automation system installed in the Library when the building was occupied. The wiring also prepares the Library to hook OCEAN with the University's campus network that will further link to the Internet when it is implemented. The building has its own back-up power to support the operation of the automation system in case there is a power outage.

The magnificent new Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library at the University of Guam was designed by J. B. Jones Architects, Inc. and built by the Black Contruction Co. on Guam. The building won the Guam and Micronesia Chapter of the A.I.A. Design Awards, '92. The award cites that

> The library is a well organized collection of forms that give a sense of place within the overall facility.
> The development of the old building with the new is a successful solution to a challenging requirement.
> The exterior pattern and rhythm provides a well proportioned sense of scale especially on the south (entry) facade.
> A very successful project, a place for learning, reflection, and interaction.

The new library building was baptized by Typhoon Omar on August 28, 1992. Omar caused enormous damages on Guam but only sent

some storm water cascading down the rooftop emergency exits and soaked the carpet and a few books of the Library. It was christened by an 8.1 earthquake, the strongest one in 84 years on Guam, on August 8, 1993. The christening did shake most books off shelves and make minor cracks; it did not shake the main structure of the building. Having weathered through a devastating typhoon and a destructive earthquake, the great Robert F. Kennedy MemoriaL Library has proven that it will be able to stand against any challenge in the future to support the University of Guam in carrying out its missions of higher education, research, and social functions on Guam and throughout the Western Pacific.